

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02929 270741Z

12-S

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 H-02 L-02 OES-03 NSC-05

PM-03 SP-02 SS-15 INR-07 CIAE-00 /068 W

----- 067716

R 270630Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1029

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T JIDDA 2929

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SA

SUBJ: YAMANI MADE HEAD OF SUPREME PETROLEUM COUNCIL

REF : JIDDA 2794

1. OIL POLICY MATTERS ARE TECHNICALLY DECIDED IN SAUDI ARABIA BY THE SUPREME PETROLEUM COUNCIL, HEADED BY PRINCE FAHD (UNTIL RECENTLY MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER; SINCE THE DEATH OF KING FAISAL, FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND CROWN PRINCE IN ADDITION TO MINISTER OF INTERIOR). IN FACT, HOWEVER, AHMAD ZAKI YAMANI, MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, HAS LONG BEEN THE DOMINANT FIGURE IN OIL POLICY. HIS POWER WAS DERIVED LARGELY FROM HIS CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH KING FAISAL AND IT WAS ASSUMED IN THE COUNTRY AND ABROAD THAT HE WOULD

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 02929 270741Z

LEAVE WHEN FAISAL DIED OR LEFT THE THRONE.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS REPORTS THAT PRINCE FAHD DIS-
LIKED YAMANI AND WAS WAITING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET
RID OF HIM. YAMANI KNEW THIS AND HAS BEEN ASSIDUOUSLY
CULTIVATING FAHD FOR WELL OVER A YEAR. HE HAS APPARENTLY
BEEN SUCCESSFUL. NOT ONLY HAS YAMANI BEEN PLACED IN
CHARGE OF A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SAUDI LAWS (REFTEL) BUT
HAS NOW BEEN MADE HEAD OF THE SUPREME PETROLEUM COUNCIL.
FAHD HAS FOUND THAT HIS DUTIES AS DE FACTO PRIME MINISTER
MAKE EVEN NOMINAL HEADING OF THE PETROLEUM COUNCIL DIF-
FICULT - ALTHOUGH HE MAY, IN FACT, RETAIN THE TITLE.
AKINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750147-0970
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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05 JUL 2006

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Subject: YAMANI MADE HEAD OF SUPREME PETROLEUM COUNCIL
TAGS: PINT, SA, (YAMANI, AHMAD ZAKI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006